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ABSTRACT

The Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale was used to investigate the effects of age and sex on the classroom behavior of 294 educationally handicapped adolescents. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) indicated that the five age groups (12, 13, 14, 15, 16 years) were significantly different on one behavioral scale (heterosexual interest). Analysis further revealed three scales (domineering-sadistic, hyperactive-expansive, and bizarre action) that were significantly different at the $p < .05$ level for males and females, and one (heterosexual interest) at the $p < .01$ level. (Author/CL)

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The Behavioral Patterns of a Group of Educationally Handicapped Adolescents

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Running Head: The Behavioral Patterns of Educationally Handicapped Adolescents

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Abstract

This study investigated the behavioral patterns of a group of 294 educationally handicapped adolescents by means of the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale (DAB Scale). There were 230 males and 64 females in the sample. The subjects ranged in age from 12 to 16 years. The male group had a mean WISC-R Full Scale IQ of 88.34 and the female group had a mean WISC-R Full Scale IQ of 79.02. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) indicated that the five age groups (12, 13, 14, 15, 16 years) were significantly different ($p < .01$) on one behavioral scale (Number 4- Heterosexual Interest). An analysis of variance was performed to determine if any significant differences existed between the sexes. This revealed three scales that were significant at the $p < .05$ level (Number 3- Domineering-Sadistic; Number 5- Hyperactive-expansive; Number 12- Bizarre Action) and one at the $p < .01$ level (Number 4- Heterosexual Interest).

The Behavioral Patterns of a Group of Educationally Handicapped Adolescents

A review of the literature indicated an increase in the development and use of teacher-administered classroom behavior rating scales. However most of the rating scales developed have focused upon the measurement of elementary school children's behavior. Spivack and Swift (1973) report that relatively little attention has been given to the measurement of behavior at the junior and senior high school levels. In a critical review of nineteen teacher-administered behavior rating scales, they found that only four scales were appropriate for children beyond the sixth grade and only three were appropriate beyond the junior high school level. Similarly, very few studies have been reported that have investigated the behavior of adolescents through the use of rating scales.

The Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale (Spivak, Haimes, Spotts; 1967) was developed for the purpose of measuring behaviors which are considered to be indications of adolescent difficulty requiring professional intervention. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the effects of age and sex upon the classroom behavior of a group of educationally handicapped adolescents, by means of the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale (DAB).

METHOD

Subjects. The sample consisted of 294 (230 males, 64 females) educationally handicapped adolescents who attended a special education facility on a full-time school day basis. Class size varied from nine to thirteen students. The majority of the students came from lower-middle to middle

socio-economic levels located in a suburban region of upstate New York. All of the students in the sample had been classified as educationally handicapped by a school district committee on the handicapped, on the basis of a comprehensive psychological evaluation, school and medical records, and a developmental history obtained from the parents. The mean I.Q. scores on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Revised were:

	Verbal	S.D.	Performance	S.D.	Full Scale	S.D.
Males	86.96	11.75	92.11	14.16	88.34	12.04
Females	76.72	8.2	85.34	13.2	79.02	9.8

The subjects ranged in age from twelve to sixteen, with a mean age of 14.12.

Procedure. One week prior to the date of the rating, the teachers participation was requested, and a short workshop was conducted. During the workshop a brief explanation of the purpose of the study was given and the teachers were provided with an opportunity to ask questions. The completed rating scales were scored as described in the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale Manual (Spivack, Haimes, and Spotts; 1967a).

Analysis of Data. In order to determine whether statistically significant differences existed for both age and sex, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was computed for each of the fifteen (15) factors on the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale. F values were obtained to determine the level of significance for each behavioral scale.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the mean scores by age for each of the behavioral scales. It shows that for this sample of educationally handicapped adolescents, scale #4 (Heterosexual Interest) was significant for age. The mean scores by age, for this scale were:

12 years - 12.29
13 years - 14.36
14 years - 14.71
15 years - 14.06
16 years - 15.33

The higher the score is, the more prominent the behavior is. The F value of 5.389 was statistically significant at the $p < .05$ level.

Further examination of Table 1 indicates that when utilizing the age only, all of the means fell within the average range on the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale. It should be noted that for the sample as a whole, none of the mean scores for any age or factor were one standard deviation above or below the mean as established by Spivack, Haimes and Spotts (1967) and Spivack and Spotts (1967a).

Table 2 indicates that for this group of educationally handicapped adolescents, four of the fifteen behavioral scales were statistically significant for sex. A review of the results indicates that the males were rated significantly higher ($p < .05$) on three of the scales. These scales were #3 (Domineering-Sadistic); #5 (Hyperactive-expansive); and #12 (Bizarre Action). On the remaining scale that attained significance ($p < .01$), #4 (Heterosexual Interest), the female group obtained a substantially higher mean score that the male group.

These results suggest that for this group of educationally handicapped adolescents, the males as a whole exhibited more behaviors described as

domineering and/or sadistic, an elevated level of motor activity and corresponding mood, and a higher rate of abberant acts. The female group was rated as exhibiting a higher degree of interest in heterosexual behavior.

RESULTS

This study used the Devereux Adolescent Behavior Rating Scale in investigating the behavioral patterns of a group of educationally handicapped male and female adolescents. The results indicated that with advancing age the group was rated by their classroom teachers as exhibiting a significant increase in interest in heterosexual behavior. Furthermore, there were significant sex differences on four of the DAB scales. They were: #3 Domineering-Sadistic; #5 Hyperactive-Expansive; #12 Bizarre Action; and #4 Heterosexual Interest. Finally, further studies examining the behavioral patterns of other groups of adolescents are needed in order to determine if these findings can be generalized.

References

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Table 1

DAB Scale Mean Scores

by Age Group

Behavioral Scale	Age Group 12	13	14	15	16	F Value
1-Unethical behavior	10.3	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.6	.510
2-Defiant-resistive	11.8	11.9	11.6	11.1	11.2	.536
3-Domineering-sadistic	12.8	11.3	11.0	10.7	10.0	.131
4-Heterosexual interest	12.3	14.4	14.7	14.1	15.3	5.389**
5-Hyperactive expansive	17.9	17.9	16.2	15.6	16.4	.373
6-Poor emotional control	16.6	14.7	14.6	13.8	14.8	.361
7-Need approval, dependency	13.0	11.5	12.5	11.0	12.4	1.100
8-Emotional distance	9.5	11.1	11.0	10.8	12.0	1.200
9-Physical inferiority-timidity	10.4	11.8	12.5	12.9	14.7	1.750
10-Schizoid withdrawal	9.1	9.5	9.0	9.6	11.4	1.064
11-Bizarre speech and cognition	9.3	9.2	9.0	9.7	10.3	.214
12-Bizarre action	8.3	7.8	7.1	7.3	7.5	.704
13-Inability to delay	21.0	21.0	19.3	17.8	19.2	.800
14-Paranoid thinking	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.1	.573
15-Anxious self-blame	9.6	10.2	10.6	10.5	12.0	1.639
	N=28	N=66	N=86	N=81	N=53	Total N = 294

*p<.05
**p<.01

Table 2

DAB Scale Mean Scores for

Male and Female Groups

Behavioral Scale	Males N=230	Females N=64	F Value
1-Unethical behavior	9.3	8.5	1.82
2-Defiant- resistive	11.6	11.2	1.21
3-Domineering-sadistic	11.5	9.5	6.60*
4-Heterosexual interest	12.6	20.5	36.17**
5-Hyperactive expansive	17.0	15.2	4.63*
6-Poor emotional control	14.6	14.6	.23
7-Need approval, dependency	11.9	12.1	.05
8-Emotional distance	11.0	10.7	.28
9-Physical inferiority-timidity	12.1	13.8	1.41
10-Schizoid withdrawal	9.4	9.9	.80
11-Bizarre speech and cognition	9.5	9.1	.77
12-Bizarre action	7.7	6.6	5.18*
13-Inability to delay	19.6	18.8	2.23
14-Paranoid thinking	7.4	7.0	1.42
15-Anxious self-blame	10.1	12.0	3.59

*p<.05

**p<.01